(b) to (d) The scope of the Act is to cover various disabilities and not diseases. Therefore, disabilities occurring due to disease are included in the Act. It is not possible to indicate any time frame for amendment to the Act.

Drug abuse in Punjab

2896 SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that drug abuse amongst the youth in Punjab has reached an alarming proportion;

(b) if so, whether Government have any figures of drug addicts in the State; and

(c) whether steps are being taken to open drug de-addiction centres in the State under the Central Government Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) There is no authentic data about drug abuse in the State of Punjab.

(c) Yes, Sir. At present, 20 De-addiction Centres are functioning in various districts of the State.

Fund for construction of Ashram Shala Bhawan

†2897. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide funds for construction of Ashram Shala Bhawans;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals of Madhya Pradesh and other States, which are under consideration of the Central Government; and

(c) the reasons of their pendency and by when the funds would be released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs grants funds to State Governments on 50:50 basis towards the cost of construction under the scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP areas.

(b) and (c) Proposals have been received from State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and UT Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.